

VIKING SAGA

Concussions and other injuries

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P.D.A in the hallways need to stop



KAYLEE GIBSON
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's day, for some budding adolescents, seems to be every day of the year. Teenagers everywhere use public displays of affection, or P.D.A., as a way to satisfy their "needs." They are blinded by buzzing hormones, vulnerable brains, and peer pressure, but really, they can control their thoughts and actions.

It is nearly impossible to walk through the Northwest halls and not see handholding, hugging, or even kissing. Most people find P.D.A. to be annoying, inappropriate, and just plain disgusting.

It all started with cavemen. Mothers used a version of kissing to pass chewed up food from their own mouth into their infant's mouth.

It wasn't until the Classic Era where kissing was used to

show affection, respect, peace, friendship, rank, and was used within religion. Basically, people kissed everyone on the mouth from siblings to priests to army generals.

Many people try to blame P.D.A. on raging hormones, but teenagers are able to make choices, even if they're not always the correct ones. It is my only hope that teenagers have enough common sense to choose right from wrong.

P.D.A. is wrong because you can love up on each other some other time. Why must it always be done in public? Just wait until a time comes to do whatever you desire in private. It's really not that hard.

There are some right ways to conduct P.D.A., believe it or not. Physical contact does not always have to be the number one way to show affection. It is much more simple to show love with good deeds and thoughtful words. It is a

way to be respectful of others, but also showing love to your partner. You may even get some "awws" when presenting your partner with chocolates.

It may be hard sometimes to find a time for privacy, but once the time does come, it will be much more awaited and affectionate.

It can be very uncomfortable to be simply walking to class and suddenly catching a couple leaned up against a locker whispering sweet nothings into each other's ear.

To some people, light touching or handholding is seen as acceptable. The Northwest administration has done a fine job of keeping a lid on obnoxious P.D.A. that goes on in the halls, classrooms, and parking lots.

Teenagers themselves need to be conscious of other people's thoughts and opinions. Be mindful of other's minds and "leave room for Jesus."

Where is the pep in high school pep rallies?



JENNIFER CLEMENT
CO-EDITOR

If you are in high school, you've most likely been to a pep rally. A pep rally is a school gathering [normally in the gymnasium] where students and staff celebrate a sports team or group's accomplishments.

These events are typically loud and very enthusiastic. Sometimes the teachers have to force the students to calm down. Sadly, that is not how it is at Northwest High School.

Pep rallies at Northwest are the most boring thing I have ever been to. It is not the sports teams, teachers, band, or the cheerleaders that are to blame. It is the student body. The student body just sits there the whole time and does nothing.

Let's use the homecoming pep rally for example. Almost no students [besides the football team,

homecoming king and queen candidates, teachers, band, and cheerleaders] showed up. It was only parents that filled the stands. Every homecoming pep rally that I have ever been to has been like this. I think that the student body needs to take more pride in their school. They need to stop being bums and get their act in order.

The only people who actually enjoy the pep rallies are the people doing something in them. The band gets to play and act like dorks [which they love to do].

The cheerleaders cheer and try to make the students cheer back. Do you know how embarrassing it is for them to do a call and response cheer and have no one respond to them? Pretty embarrassing, if you ask me.

Whenever you watch a movie, and the main character is a high school student, there is almost always a pep rally going on. It's simple movie logic. During the

pep rally, students are basically partying in the stands. Yes, this is acting, but why can't we take a leaf out of their book and do the same? We should really show our teams some support.

It is true that we have a killer student section at Northwest. Every home volleyball and football game had a full student section and all of them were dressed up in whatever the theme for the night was. They have cheers and dances ready for every time out. If we could transfer some of this energy into the pep rallies, they would be so much fun for everyone.

Bottom line is, the students at Northwest are a bunch of sticks in the mud when it comes to school pep rallies. This should really change. It would be more fun if everyone acted more peppy at pep rallies. So stop being so boring and get off your behinds. It is only four years of your lives. Why not enjoy it?

VIKING SAGA

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VikingMedia



Student-driven publication continues through the years

ALEX STOCKER
CO - EDITOR

Many have read the *Viking Saga* newspaper throughout Northwest's many years, but few know how the paper actually got its start at Northwest High School.

The roots of the paper were set when students Kathy Pieper, Kathy Eirick, and others took an interest in other surrounding school's papers.

"We had seen that other area schools had a school paper and so we wanted to try having one at Northwest," Pieper said.

The paper soon came to life after Pieper and Eirick sought advice from business teacher Jack Adams.

"Mr. Adams told us to talk to Mrs. Martha McGahan, and that's who eventually became our sponsor," Pieper said.

The title *Viking Saga* came from the first student staff and McGahan.

"The staff came up with a list of about four or five names on it and then asked Mrs. McGahan her opinion and she told us she liked the *Viking Saga* so we went with it," Pieper said.

From its beginning, the *Viking Saga* has covered various topics that have impacted Northwest.

"When we started, we covered things like plays, music, athletics, other organizations, and a

few world events, but we mostly covered things that were either happening here at Northwest or in Grand Island," Eirick said.

Technology has had a major impact on how the *Viking Saga* is produced.

"We had to type out our stories on manual typewriters, proof the stories, and then we went down to the Hall County Courthouse and used their mimeograph to make the numerous copies that we sent out," Eirick said.

The Hall County Courthouse was available for use by anyone involved in the school systems.

"The cool thing about using the mimeograph was that anyone in the school systems could use it and they also provided the legal sized paper for us to use, before printers that's also how a lot of worksheets and tests were made," Eirick said.

Today the *Viking Saga* is produced digitally on computers using the program Adobe InDesign, and then the pages get formatted into pdfs and then emailed to the *Independent* for printing.

"Your system looks a lot easier to use than ours," both Eirick and Pieper said.

Members of the graduating class of 1969 are still closely bonded today.

"Once a month about 14 or so members from our class all go out to eat together and catch up on things that have happened," Eirick said.

After graduating Northwest, Eirick attended Kearney State College and was on the newspaper staff there as well. Upon her college graduation she taught at One-R school for numerous years and retired in May 2015.

Pieper also attended Kearney State College and has published five books and has two more awaiting publishing.

"The *Viking Saga* was important to us and we're glad it's continued," both Eirick and Pieper said.



A pile of past issues of the *Viking Saga*. The issue on the top is the first issue from 1968.

PHOTO BY ALEX STOCKER

One Act director ends career with trip to State competition

JENNIFER CLEMENT
CO - EDITOR

When One Act director Bonnie Brown announced that she would be retiring after the 2015-2016 school year, there was mutual sadness among many of her students.

Brown has taught hundreds of students during her years at Northwest and many have claimed that she has made a difference in their lives.

"When I first heard [that] Mrs. Brown was leaving this year, I was glad her last year was my senior year. I have been with tons of different directors and nobody compares to her. We have had ups and downs this year, but these ups and downs will be the quality we needed to make it to State this year. She deserved a State Championship her last year and it'll be sad to see her go," senior Emily Earl said.

The Northwest One Act worked very hard to get Brown and co-director Darbie Mazour to State.

The students participated in hundreds of rehearsals, and used Brown's retirement as motivation to get their play

"[The directors] have inspired me and taught me so many things over these past few years."

- SENIOR ALESSA KORELL

"The Wreckers" to State.

"[In the four years I have been in One Act] I have learned how to become a better actor and a better person. The main reason I have grown so much over the years is because of our amazing director, Mrs. Brown," senior Aleesa Korell said.

The senior class who has been with Brown for years have grown to respect her.

"Over the years Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Mazour have become role models to me. They have inspired me and taught me so many things over these past few years, and I am very sad this will be Mrs. Brown's last year," Korell said.

The One Act received third place at their state competition, and they were pleased to have made it as far as they did.

"Mrs. Brown has worked very hard and I'm glad she is going out with a bang! She and Mazour have been trying to get us to Districts and finally we have succeeded and are headed to STATE! I am so glad they are and always will be a part of my story, and can't wait to see how many others they will impact over the years," Korell said.



One Act director Bonnie Brown and co-director Darbie Mazour hold their first place plaque at Districts. PHOTO COURTESY OF NWHHS

Theft in school inspires positive action

MITCHELL EVANS
STAFF WRITER

As the first semester of the school year comes to a close, there has been some recent activity at Northwest that shines a light on a topic that some students and staff may have not paid attention to: theft.

So far this year there have been less than ten reported incidences of theft in the school. Out in the parking lot, there have been one or two reported incidences of cars getting broken into. To help students keep their personal belongings safe they should keep it in their cars, possibly in the trunk or under a seat so that it isn't as easy to spot as if it were out in the open.

"If you fear that it is going to be stolen don't bring it to school," Principal Tim Krupicka said.

There are punishments set in place for students who violate the school's policy on theft.

"Under our point system, theft would be twenty-one points, if it was first offense it would be one to five days of in-school suspension. If it is the second offense it would be five to ten days of in-school suspension. Third offense would be five or more days of out-of-school suspension. In addition to school consequenc-

es charges may be filed against the student," Krupicka said.

One of the most recent cases of theft in the school was when the dodgeball tournament money was stolen.

"We had 17 teams registered at \$30 per team so we raised \$510. When we counted money the next morning the larger bills, approximately \$277, were missing. There were several opportunities for the money to be lost or stolen so it's been impossible to track down who is responsible," SkillsUSA advisor Keith Dubas said.

The money that was raised by the tournament was going to support two mission projects of SkillsUSA.

"The missing money put our goal of funding two of our missions in jeopardy. The two missions are sponsoring a United Way family for Christmas, and buying a mattress and frame for a young boy that has had to share a mattress with his mom and brother that are moving into a Habitat Home this January," Dubas said.

At first Dubas was hesitant to share the information regarding the money being stolen, but then was later advised to spread the word to his

students in hopes that the person that had taken the money would step forward, which hasn't happened yet.

Something surprising happened when Dubas came back to school after Thanksgiving break.

"I came back from Thanksgiving break to find out that the Northwest teachers had banded together to help replace the missing money. It didn't stop there; other generous students' families stepped in to really take us over the top. Brandon Kelley and Zach McVicker manned a booth at the Music Boosters Craft Fair taking orders for 'Firewood Deer' and sharing their passion for our mission, sparking more donations," Dubas said.

In total about \$1,500 had been raised thanks to many people's help.

"I'm very proud to work at Northwest, it's a special place. Be thankful you have great teachers, parents, students, and community all around you," Dubas said.

With the growing concern of theft around Northwest High School it is important that students know what they can do to keep their belongings safe and secure both in and out of school.

School safety tops priority list for students and staff

MITCHELL EVANS
STAFF WRITERS

Northwest takes its security precautions very seriously in order to keep its students and staff safe from threats, but most students first thought when it comes to the safety of the school is why they don't lock the front doors.

"If we went around the school there are over forty exterior doors and at 8:10 our custodians lock all of them except for the main entry doors. Part of the reason we don't lock the front doors is because we have so many seniors who take classes out at CCC [Central Community College], with so many students going in and out we keep a very close eye on the doors throughout the day," Principal Tim Krupicka said.

Other ways that Krupicka helps to keep the school safe is every day he and the assistant principals will patrol the hallways of Northwest to make sure that everything is running smoothly. Also as they patrol the hallways they will keep an eye out for open doors to make sure that they can close them as fast as possible. Another great asset to Krupicka is the students themselves.

"The fact that we have students who care and will tell an adult about an unsafe condition is extremely important. We certainly couldn't get it done without the students doing things

like that because obviously the building belongs to the students. We want to create an environment where the students are safe in the building because when students don't feel safe they don't learn as well," Krupicka said.

While it is a major responsibility for the faculty of the building to keep the students safe it is also the job of the students to help keep each other safe as well. While the school's safety precautions are as safe as they can be, once a



A sign posted outside on a door states that guests need to visit the office. PHOTO BY MITCHELL EVANS

year the safety committee meets to make a plan to see what can be improved," Krupicka said.

We don't have any plans in the near future to lock all doors and have a buzz in, buzz out system not just because of the inconvenience but also because I don't know if that would

make us a great deal safer than what we already are," Krupicka said.

Another way to keep students and staff of Northwest safe is by making sure that take the fire, tornado, and intruder drills very seriously.

"This is the fourth year that we have done the lock down drill and each year we have gotten better at how we perform the drills, and how teacher and student take the drills more seriously," Krupicka said.

With the growing concern of how safe schools are around the country, some people feel that the Northwest faculty members are doing their best in order to keep students and other staff members safe.



Theft of electronics is a possibility when the school doors are open and classrooms are left unattended. PHOTO BY MITCHELL EVANS

Differences exist between GI's two biggest schools

CELESTE THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Grand Island's two public high schools, Grand Island Senior High (GISH) and Northwest High School, shake up and settle out with numerous differences and similarities.

One of the many differences is that GISH has over a thousand more students than Northwest does, which causes them to have a different bell schedule to make room.

They have early bird classes that start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 7:50 a.m., right before school starts. They have to split up classes due to lunch shifts for more students. Their 4th, 5th, and 6th periods are split into two different sections, being: 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6a, and 6b.

GISH is known for their larger number of

different ethnicities.

"One of the biggest differences [between the two schools] is diversity," GISH math teacher Jeff Hofeldt said.

Senior High's music program is similar to Northwest's, including a varsity show choir called Ultimate Image, and a junior varsity show choir called Future Image. The difference is that they have an all girls show choir called Sweet Revelations.

Their theater program usually puts on one more musical than Northwest.

"The size of both programs is different, but they both are very good," GISH music director Jeff Vyhldal said.

GISH holds a fall musical, a one-act play, a "Christmas Carol," a winter play, and a spring musical.

Both schools have their own reputations in the community.

"Your image in the community is really important," GISH English teacher Cally Macosko said.

The community sees each school differently, each with its own strengths and weaknesses.

Senior High has more clubs and activities than Northwest such as a Gay-Straight Alliance club, HealthCare club, Key club, Robotics club,

and Multicultural club.

The amount of clubs has positive influences on the students.

"The amount of clubs probably helps the students find where they belong. I think we have a lot of opportunities for you to find what suits you best," Vyhldal said.

The two schools both utilize a 1-1 technology program, but each has its own system to fit the school. Senior High has continued with the iPads that they have used for four years, while Northwest used iPads for two years, but switched to Chromebooks and they are using them again this year.

Students can make a decision on what school to attend by finding which will best fit their needs.



Entrance to Northwest High School.

PHOTO BY CELESTE THOMPSON



Entrance to Grand Island Senior High School.

PHOTO BY CELESTE THOMPSON

Schedule changes to come next semester

AMANDA DECKER
STAFF WRITER

After starting the year with three different bell schedules during the week, the Northwest administration has made a decision that after Winter Break, more consistent advisements will be returning.

"It was decided by the administration with the endorsement of the teachers that next semester our intervention and advisement period will change in order to provide more intervention time for students who may need it," Principal Tim Krupicka said.

Going back to the original schedule means students can have more time to catch up on school work; there will be four available days to meet with teachers as needed.

Teachers can communicate with each other through a shared Google document; they request students who need to work on missing assignments or retaking tests.

Some students are pleased with

the change of schedule. They enjoy the extra thirty minutes of study time between first and second period that they currently have on Monday and Friday mornings.

"Any struggles you have through the day, [advisement gives you] a break to get refocused to get through the rest of the day," sophomore Shayla Kleffner said.

The original schedule, with advisement on Mondays and Fridays, a second bell schedule on Thursdays and Fridays, and the usual early out on Wednesdays, caused confusion among several students when it was initiated.

"I didn't like when the schedule changed [from last year's]. I'm just glad that the schedule will be going back, because that is what I am used to," sophomore Violet Stryker said.

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, the time will be spent for "Intervention," for students to get help, while Fridays will be set aside for "Advisement" time.

Spring 2016 Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Period 1 8:10-8:54
Intervention 8:58-9:28
Period 2 9:32-10:16
Period 3 10:20-11:04
Period 4 11:00-11:52
Period 5 11:56-1:12
Period 6 1:16-2:00
Period 7 2:04-2:48
Period 8 2:52-3:36

Wednesday

Period 1 8:10-8:47
Period 2 8:51-9:28
Period 3 9:32-10:09
Period 4 10:13-10:50
Period 5 10:54-11:31
Period 6 11:35-1:01
Period 7 1:05-1:42
Period 8 1:46-2:23

VIKING VOICES

Student Concussion Experiences

"I was in a pretty bad car accident several weeks ago in downtown Grand Island. I hit my head on the windshield and actually broke the windshield. It almost felt like having a fever, my entire body just hurt and ached."

Junior Carissa Jonak

"I have had four confirmed by doctors: two [of them] from football and two from wrestling. [They gave me] nausea and horrible migraines that last for hours on end for extended periods of time, sometimes for weeks."

Sophomore Dalton Quandt

"[I got a concussion] by rolling a four wheeler. [The worst part about having the concussion was] that I forgot everything that happened that day."

Junior Chance Boersen

Concussions play a major part in sports

BRENDEN HOLLING
STAFF WRITER

Most people believe that concussions are a serious problem. Concussions have instant side effects, but the long term effects are the most serious and life threatening. A condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE, is the most common long term effect. After having a concussion, CTE can be initiated by repeated blows or shakes to the head and brain area over time. CTE slowly degenerates the brain and causes the accumulation of a protein called Tau. The main side effects of CTE are depression, memory loss, aggression, confusion, and early onset dementia. There are baseline tests to test the early stages of CTE but there is no cure and no way to confirm that a person has CTE when they are alive.

There are over 30 former NFL football players that have been confirmed with CTE. There is a possibility that many more have CTE that weren't tested. Famous football players who have had CTE include Mike Webster, Junior

Seau, and Chris Henry.

Mike Webster was a center for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1974-1990. He made the Pro Bowl nine times and was elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997. By his retirement, Webster was disabled and suffered from amnesia, dementia, and depression. Although he died from a heart attack in 2002, his brain was donated to be researched by Dr. Bennet Omalu. Webster was the first former NFL player to be diagnosed with CTE. There is an upcoming movie entitled *Concussion* that tells Webster's story.

The NFL hid the findings of Omalu's work until the tragic death of Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry. In December of 2009, Henry fell out the back of a truck after a dispute with his fiancé. He sustained a major head injury and died because of it a day later. His brain was donated to the Brain Injury Research Institute of West Virginia University. The doctors and researchers found that Henry had CTE during his life. Henry was the first

player to be diagnosed as having the disease during his career. Henry was never diagnosed with a concussion at any point in his playing career.

The brain injury issue was not put on a bigger stage until Henry's death, but another tragic death raised the stakes even more. Junior Seau was a linebacker for the San Diego Chargers and New England Patriots and had a 20 year career. In May 2012, Seau was found by his girlfriend with a self inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. He was a fan favorite by all fans and a big memorial service was held in his honor. Information released by the National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke and the Seau family in 2013 said that Seau had definitive signs of CTE. Seau also had never been diagnosed with a concussion.

After all these players' individual stories had been told, there was a lawsuit between the NFL and 4,500 former players over concussion related injuries. They reached a settlement in 2013 worth over \$765 million.

INJURIES:

STUDENTS NEED SAFETY ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Injuries to students can happen outside of sports

ALEX STOCKER
CO-EDITOR

Many of people have had an accident where they did something and injured themselves. These things happen on a daily basis all over the world. When it's said that a high school student is injured, many think that the injury occurred in a sporting event; however, many students have had injuries that occurred outside of sporting events.

"I received a concussion from a car accident I was in," senior Austin Dammann said.

Injuries sustained not just on the playing field or court take time to heal.

"It took me three weeks and a lot of rest [to recover]," Dammann said.

Injuries don't just happen to seniors, but to people of all ages and grade levels.

"I got a sprained leg when I fell in between the springs on my trampoline," freshman Madison Pierce said.

Injuries come from all sorts of different activities and can cost a lot of money depending on the injury and where the injured person is treated.

According to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the typical cost for a person over 16 to visit the emergency room is between \$580 and \$730, while the typical cost for a person under 16 years old to visit the emergency room is between \$510 and \$635.

Serious injuries are not restricted to high

school students as well.

"I remember when I was back in elementary school, and I was getting lunch for my friend in a wheelchair. I had to run across to the other building and I looked back at a friend and I ran into a flag pole; it knocked me out cold and I got a concussion," business teacher Colleen Childers said.

While some students have had one or two injuries, there are students who have had many injuries and re-occurring injuries.

"I've had a couple of concussions, broken legs, and broken wrists. Some of my injuries have come from sports and a lot from my fourwheeler and dirt bike," freshman Caden Isley said.

POLL DATA: CONCUSSIONS



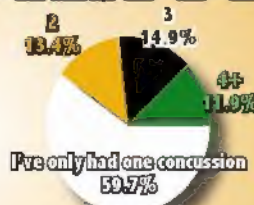
Have you ever had a concussion?

*206 responses



Have you had more than one concussion?

*73 responses



If you have had multiple concussions, how many have you had?

*67 responses



If you have had a concussion, did you receive it from a sport?

*71 responses

Wrestlers spend season watching weight to compete

BRENDEN HOLLING
STAFF WRITER

Most people know when wrestling season has started: those teenage boys who usually eat two or hamburgers might sit down with nothing more than a glass of water. These wrestlers are cutting weight to get down to their preferred weight class.

"Some wrestlers cut up to 20 pounds or more," head wrestling coach Brian Sybrandts said.

Most wrestlers cut down weight to be the biggest they can, but being able to still weigh at or below a certain weight. For many wrestlers it can be difficult to cut weight.

"The hardest part about cutting weight is not being able to eat as much as you used to be able to. Cutting weight doesn't make wrestling unenjoyable, it just makes it more mentally challenging," junior Chevy Stout said.

With more regulations from the state, cutting weight is more safe than it used to be.

"The Nebraska Schools Activities Association [NSAA] makes weight cutting safe because each wrestler has a weight plan so they don't drop too much weight too quickly. It shows how much weight they can drop daily," Sybrandts said.

Most coaches recommend cutting weight but it all depends on the wrestler.

"Most coaches do encourage weight cutting so kids can get to a weight that fits them best. It really just depends on the kid. If they are really skinny then no, but if they can lose a little then yes. Some kids will cut weight just so they can get into the varsity lineup," Sybrandts said.

Stout is trying to cut weight to fit into the 170 pound spot.

"I'm trying to cut seven pounds. According to my plan, I'll be there before or on December 19th," Stout said.

There are a lot of downsides to cutting weight. Some wrestlers wear heavy clothes during workouts to lose water weight, and some do not eat meals. That does have side effects.

"Some side effects of cutting weight could be malnutrition and dehydration. Some wrestlers will try to starve themselves to make weight or try and cutting it all at once," Sybrandts said.

Cutting weight is not for everyone, though. "Some don't want to cut any weight which is totally fine," Sybrandts said.

Some wrestlers take action prior to the season.

"I haven't cut any weight because I cut before the season started," junior Coleman Cooper said.



(Above) Senior Austin Dammann attempts to escape freshman Cooper Kiser. (Below) Senior Phoenix Kalinski works hard to pin freshman Grant Isley.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CLEMENT

School rivalries stimulate school spirit and competition

AUSTIN FRANCISCO
STAFF WRITER

In sports, competition can be a driving force in games. Rivalries can form between schools who play against each other. The Northwest volleyball team has had some well established rivalries with other competing schools.

"This year was a fun year when it came to the little rivalries that we have. Aurora was always our favorite game to play because of the long-standing rivalry between us. Each game we had against them would get us pumped up a little more and we started a new rivalry with Ord this year. They have become great competition for both our JV and Varsity and I can't wait to see years to come for the upcoming seasons and players. Another team is Pius X, they have been a long rival of ours and they always know how to keep us on our toes," senior Taylor Hovie said.

Not only does the Northwest volleyball team have rivalries, but the Northwest football team does as well.

"Aurora and York are always the big-

gest ones [rivalries]; it's fun because it brings a different aspect to the game: you're not just playing for the win; you're playing to beat those



The Northwest student section cheers on their team at a home football game. The student section is known for its school spirit, and has had rivalries with students from competing schools. PHOTO BY VIKING YEARBOOK STAFF

guys and to represent Northwest," said senior Christian Ellsworth.

Rivalries in sports are not always bad things. A healthy rivalry can make teams and players play harder the next time they face their rival.

"We got a new rivalry this year with Ord; it was a fun rivalry, though we played them at the UNO summer camp and we lost both sets to them. Then, we played them at the NE Top Ten team camp and split sets with them. After that, we added them to our schedule and it became a little rivalry because we will play them again next year. In season, we ended up beating them and they were really good sports about it. They are a great team and such nice girls; it was a nice rivalry with them," junior Sierra Holliday said.

As schools participate in events against each other over the years, rivalries can form. While some rivalries can be detrimental to the teams, it can motivate teams to play better against each other.

"Overall, we have some pretty good rivals to compete against and it is awesome that we get to compete with them year after year," Hovie said.

Star Wars fans from different generations await new movie

AUSTIN FRANCISCO
STAFF WRITER

Ever since *Star Wars* came out in 1977, it has been influential to both the film industry and American culture. Now after 30 years, the continuation of the *Star Wars* story is about to happen. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, directed by J.J. Abrams, will come out on December 18. Many people at Northwest are anticipating its release.

"I grew up watching *Star Wars* so I look forward to seeing the continuation of Luke Skywalker's story," senior Sheldon Means said.

Star Wars has influenced many people across multiple generations. Not only do students look forward to the movie's release, teachers do as well.

"I am so excited for it; my wife and I bought advance tickets so we could see it. We will be

watching it the weekend it comes out," English teacher Michael Witt said.

The Force Awakens has been generating a



large amount of excitement through its marketing and its legacy. As the movie's release date nears, there is still the chance that the movie may not live up to expectations.

"I'm expecting it to not be as good as the original trilogy so I will not be disappointed if it's bad," Means said.

Regardless of whether or not the movie turns out to be good or bad, the movie will still make a large amount of money. According to collider.com, *The Force Awakens* is tracking to make \$225 million in its opening weekend. That would be the largest opening for a movie in 2015.

"It's huge because so many people my age remember the first movies and we show it to our kids. When it came out it was after the Vietnam War, so it was a statement on society," Witt said.

On December 18, audiences will finally get to see another *Star Wars* movie. People will finally see if *Star Wars* can entertain them as much as it has before.

"If it sucks I'll be let down after a decade of no *Star Wars*," senior Joshua Peterman said.

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Star Wars Fun Fact:

Star Wars was the first film to make
over \$300,000,000 and was the first
science fiction film to be nominated for
best picture.



Star Wars Fun Fact:

Darth Vader has only 12 minutes of
screen time in the original movie.

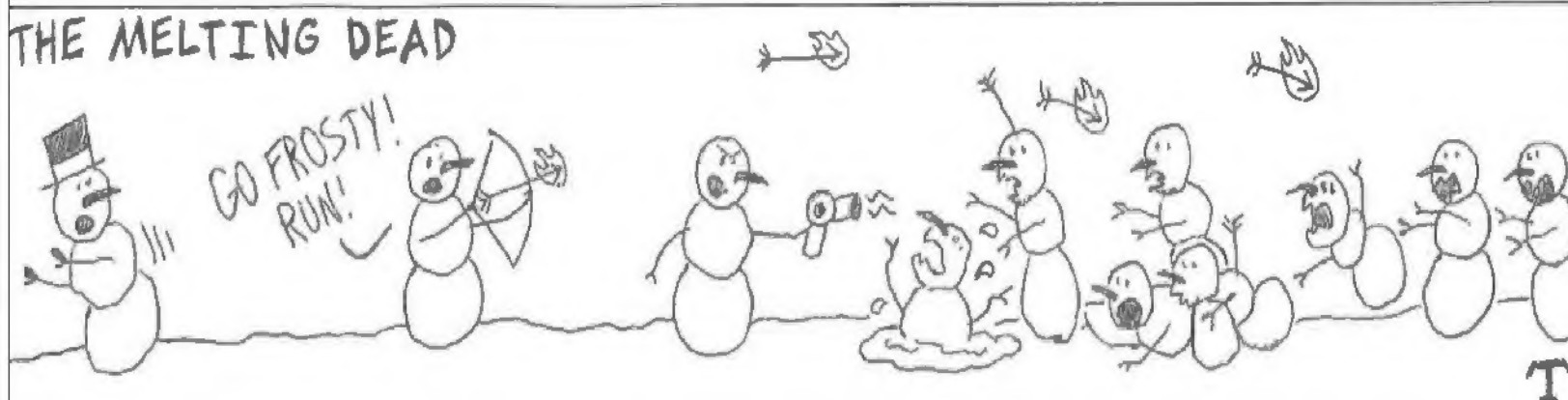
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Semester Exams

Today's Schedule

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Period 1 Exam 8:10 - 9:20 | Period 5 11:44 - 1:03 |
| Period 2 Exam 9:30 - 10:40 | (Tues./Thur. Lunch) |
| Period 3 10:44 - 11:10 | Period 6 1:07 - 1:54 |
| Period 4 11:14 - 11:40 | Period 7 1:58 - 2:45 |
| | Period 8 2:49 - 3:36 |

Monday
December 21

Noon Dismissal

Period 3 8:10-9:20
Period 4 9:30-10:40
Period 5 10:50-12:00

Tuesday
December 22

Noon Dismissal

Period 6 8:10-9:20
Period 7 9:30-10:40
Period 8 10:50-12:00

*10 minute passing periods during semester exams

Senior Spotlight

BRENDEN HOLLING
STAFF WRITER

Trevor Koepp

Age: 17

Middle school: Westridge

Activities: Marching Band, 14 Karat Gold, Musical, IBA, Wind Ensemble, Sunday Slammer Bowling League

Plans for after high school: Audition and hopefully join a drum and bugle corp.

Advice for Underclassmen: Enjoy being a teenager with no responsibilities. It won't happen again for the rest of your life.

Interesting fact: I love playing board games, video games, and hanging out with friends.



Audrey Quandt

Age: 17

Middle School: One-R

Activities: Softball, National Honor Society, Acapella, 14 Karat Gold, and 4-H

Plans for After High School: Attend Concordia University in Seward where I will study secondary math education and play softball.

Advice for Underclassmen: Don't take anything for granted.

Interesting Fact: I have hit 5 home runs in softball.



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